Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1652 - April 10 2009

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1652 with a release date of Friday, April 10th, 2009 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. A radio amateur in Florida is murdered. Police allege his neighbor wanted the hams money and no witnesses to identify identify him. Also, hams in Italy mobilize after an Earthquake hits 70 miles from Rome, another DX'er has his call pilfered and a ham radio April Fools joke that left very few laughing. Find out the details on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1652 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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RADIO CRIME: FLORIDA HAM MURDERED IN ROBERY OF HIS HOME

A Florida ham radio operator has been killed by his neighbor in what appears to be a murder and rob crime. Amateur Radio Newsline's Mark Abramovich, NT3V, is at our East coast bureau with more:

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Authorities say less than a day before he was to celebrate his 57th birthday, Sterling Howell, KG4KIU, a widower who lived alone in a trailer home in Glenn St. Mary was brutally stabbed to death by his neighbor.

Investigators in Baker County at the northeastern tip of Florida say Howell was stabbed by 25-year-old Aron Fox the evening of April 1st.

Baker County Sheriff Joey Dobson told local media outlets Fox, who had lived next door with his mother, stabbed Howell several times in the chest and head area.

Dobson said it was believed the murder weapon was a knife or some other very sharp object, which hasn't been recovered.

The sheriff says there was evidence of a struggle and defensive wounds on the body, which was found outside the trailer home covered by a blanket.

He said the attack was so savage that one of Howell's thumbs was nearly taken off.

Investigators say the apparent motive for murder was money.

Dobson says Fox's mother overheard her son on a cell phone telling someone he was going to get Howell's banking information.

She told authorities she tried to call Howell to warn him just as her son left the house wearing gloves, but she couldn't reach Howell.

Investigators say Fox took Howell's pick-up truck and later abandoned it miles away.

They say his sister helped deputies catch Fox and allowed authorities to take him into custody without incident.

Authorities say the investigation is continuing and they are trying to find the person with whom Fox was engaged in that telephone conversation on the night of the murder.

North Florida hams say Howell was active on local repeaters and was a regular on the South Cars net on 7.251 Mhz.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, in Philadelphia.

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Aron Fox is expected to be charged with capital murder. If convicted he would face the death penalty or life in prison without the possibility of parole. (ARNewsline(tm) from various published reports)

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RESCUE RADIO: HAMS AID IN WAKE OF ITALY QUAKE

Amateur radio may be assisting in the aftermath of a powerful earthquake struck Italy early on Monday, April 6th. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, is in the newsroom with more:

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According to several sources and some DX cluster reports, 3.640 MHz and 3.6343.5 on 75 meters along with 7.045 MHz on 40 are being used as emergency net frequencies into and out of the disaster area. But Alberto Barbera, IK1YLO, who is the IARU National Emergency Communications Coordinator for Italy says he is not aware of any nets operating on behalf of the emergency communications groups on the High Frequency bands. He believes that any such operation is being done on an individual basis.

Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO, is CQ Magazine's outgoing Public Service editor. He relays a report from IARU Region 1 Emergency Communications Coordinator Greg Mossop, G0DUB. Mossap says that Barbera is trying to coordinate various groups in light of the recent shutdown of Italy's national emergency communications organization. Bob says that IK1YKO has stated that practically all repeaters are still in operation, and that much of the region's cellphone infrastructure is intact as well.

The magnitude 6.2 quake hit Italy very early in the day killing at least 240 people, leaving thousands of people without homes and causing damage to many ancient buildings. The quake's epicenter was in a town of L'Aquila, about 70 miles from Rome. Numerous important churches and castles, some more than 700 years old, partially collapsed in the quake. Thousands of newer homes were leveled as well.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, Wa6ITF, reporting.

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As we go to air rescue efforts are still reported as ongoing and hams world-wide are being asked to keep the frequencies of 3.640, 3.6343.5 and 7.045 MHz clear until further notice, even if its all unofficial at this time. (WA3PZO, CQ, other reports)

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RESCUE RADIO: CANADIAN HAMS ACTIVATED IN RED RIVER EMERGENCY

Minnesota and North Dakota hams were not the only ones activated when the Red River crested above flood stage almost two weeks ago. Their counterparts north of the U-S and Canadian border went on high alert after serious ice jams on the river north of Winnipeg caused several communities to declare state of emergency.

East St. Paul, West St. Paul, St. Andrews and St. Clements were all being impacted by rising water. St. Clements Emergency Coordinator Dave Place VE4PN, reported that ARES was activated and its members staffed the local Emergency Operations Center. This continued even after reports advised that the ice jam had been broken using explosives and that the water level in hardest hit areas was dropping. The hams stayed at the EOC because those communities were still at risk.

And it was due to the rapidly changing conditions that Manitoba emergency management went ahead with its planned opening of the Provincial Emergency Operations Center. Meantime, Jeff Dovyak, VE4MBQ, the Capitol Region District Emergency Coordinator advised that Winnipeg ARES had activated and had provided staffing to the Manitoba Emergency Management radio room. Plans were also in place to provide emergency communications to town and cities on the rivers edge down to the Canadian border with the United States.

Meantime on this side of the border, Mark Johnson, KC0SHM, President of the Red River Radio Amateurs reports that although operations are winding down in the Fargo North Dakota and Moorehead Minnesota areas, the flood threat along the Red River remains for later in April. (RAC, ARRL, others)

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RESCUE RADIO: TEXAS TOWN WANTS HAM RADIO

Groves, Texas, says that ham radio operators are "invaluable" in keeping communication flowing after hurricanes. Because of this the Groves city manager D.E. Sosa says that he hopes to see better antennas on Groves water towers by the 2009 hurricane season.

According to the Port Arthur News, the Groves City Council members voted Monday, March 30th to research entering into a contract that would be of no cost the city. Chris Boone, WB5ITT, explained that the antennas could go on top of towers or clamp on to the climb ladder. Manager Sosa said he hopes that the process could be completed in about two months. (Port Arthur News)

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PUBLIC SERVICE: HAM RADIO HELPS IN TEXAS ROBBERY ARRESTS

Two men have been arrested in Texas and charged with robbery. This, as a result of the combined efforts of an observant victim, a ham radio operator and state and county law enforcement officers.

According to news reports the pair were charged with robbery after punching a woman in the mouth while in the process of burglarizing a campsite. The two made off with about $800 in fishing gear.

Figuring that the robbers might return to the lake in search of more victims authorities circvulted information on the suspects. An unnamed ham radio operator reportedly saw a suspicious vehicle and gave police its license number. A Game Warden found the vehicle parked in front of a residence near the lake and held its occupants until police arrived to take the suspects into custody. The two matched the description the victim had given. (Paris Texas News)

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BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the East Cape Linked Repeater Network serving all of South Africa.

(5 sec pause here)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: KE7KDP, KE5AIT AND RA3DT RETURN FROM THE ISS

Two members of the Expedition 18th International Space Station crew and a space tourist on his second trip to the I-S-S returned to Earth at 2:16 a.m. C-D-T on Wednesday, April 8th.

Landing safely in southern Kazakhstan were NASA astronaut Mike Fincke, KE5AIT, Russian cosmonaut Yury Lonchakov, RA3DT and spaceflight participant Charles Simonyi, KE7KDP. The three made the return trip on board a Russian built Soyuz spacecraft.

The Expedition 18 crew members undocked from the I-S-S at 10:55 p.m. April 7. The deorbit burn to slow the Soyuz and begin its descent toward Earth began at 1:24 a.m. on April 8th. The landing was moved to a more southerly site because of poor landing conditions at the original site.

Charles Simonyi, KE7KDP, spent 11 days on the I-S-S under a commercial agreement with the Russian Federal Space Agency. During his mission he was on the air as much as possible using the ARISS station that's a permanent part of the I-S-S. Simonyi is also the only paying spaceflight participant to visit the station twice with this trip reportedly costing him close to $35 million dollars.

Meantime, astronaut Mike Fincke, KE5AIT, now officially holds the record for the most ARISS contacts on a single expedition as well as the most for multiple missions. During his stay on board the International Space

Station, Fincke logged a total of 426 space to earth school contacts by an expedition and 22 ARISS supported terrestrial contacts. Because of this, Expedition 18 has now set the record for the greatest number of ARISS contacts by any single ISS expedition. (NASA, otrhers)

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ON THE NET: APRIL FOOLS JOKE CONVINCES SOME HAMS THAT AMATEUR RADIO WAS BANNED

An April Fools joke posted at the radiobanter dot com website has some of the more gullible hams around the nation believing that a California county has banned ham radio over health issues. Bruce Tennant, K6PZWW, has the details:

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The article titled "Silenced Hams Mean Safer County" claims that San Luis Obispo county supervisors took -- and we quote -- "drastic and unprecedented by passing an ordinance that would prohibit amateur radio operators from operating their transmitting stations."

The article claims that the reason the measure was put in place to eliminate what officials said were health risks associated with transmitters located close to children. It also claims that the action is aimed at addressing a recent Stanford University study that showed a correlation between ham radios and attention deficit disorder and hyperactivity in children, as well as nagging reports of interference caused by radio hams operating their high-powered transmitters in residential neighborhoods.

It was easy to prove the joke status of the story thanks to a few searches using Google. First, there is no reporters by-line to the article. No information on who wrote it. Then the so-called Stanford University study cited is non existent. Third is the posters claim that the story originally appeared in the April 1st edition of the Los Angeles Press-Telegram newspaper, but that also is totally erroneous. Lastly, when you read the entire story it becomes apparent that it contains items that the average newspaper reporter likely has never heard of including mention of PRB One.

The problem is that once posted on the Internet these stories seem to take on a life of their own. Because of this, we expect to see this one raising the hair on the backs of some hams for a long time. This, even though all it was trying to say was "April Fools" albeit not everyone is finding it to be all that funny.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, Im Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

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And this just in. In response to numerous queries, including some from more than a few very irate hams, Cherie Aispuro, the San Luis Obispo County Legislative Assistant for District 2 has sent out the following statement.

Quote: "I want to tell you that the Board of Supervisors of San Luis

Obispo have not and do not have anything scheduled to adopt an ordinance that would ban or prohibit amateur radio operators." -- end quote.

The item has now been removed from the radiobanter site but it's still making the rounds on several other sites and blogs including QRZ.com. See http://forums.qrz.com/showthread.php?t9547 (Tnx WA6ILQ)

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ENFORCEMENT NEEDED: ANOTHER PILFERED CALL

Another case of a stolen callsign. Over the last few weeks Charles Wilmott, M0OXO, of Yorsshire in the U-K has received reports that his short contest call of M0X has been used by an unknown operator including in contests.

Recently, the M0X call was been used along with a regional designator for the Island of Guernsey. And as a result Wilmott has received several requests for QSL cards that he's not about to respond to. This is because he has never operated from Guernsey; at least not yet. (Southgate)

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PUBLIC SERVICE: BUTTER, EGGS AND HAM (RADIO)

Radio amateurs in Northern California will be taking part I the upcoming City of Petalum's Butter And Egg Day Parade on April 25th. According to a note from KA6OPN, special event station K6P will be on the air to commemorate this years event. More can be found on Page 88 of the April edition of QST Magazine or on-line at www.repairguy.net/acs/index.html) (KA6OPN)

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HAM HAPPENINGS: EMCOMM EAST 2009 SCHEDULED

You have heard a lot lately about the Emcommwest ham radio convention in Reno Nevada. Now comes word that EmComm East will be held on October 3, 2009, in Rochester, New York. Presentations on the agenda so far include such topics as managing large events, remote operations, N-V-I-S Emergency communications and much more. For more information, visit the shows website at www.emcommeast.org or drop an e-mail to info (at) emcommeast (dot) org (WY7Q)

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HAM RAPPENINGS: GERMANY'S HAM RADIO SHOW GETS DISCOUT FLIGHTS

If you live in London England or are going through London on your way to the 2009 Ham Radio convention in Friedrichshafen, Germany, have we found a deal for you. The Southgate News repots that European budget air carrier Ryanair will be providing flights between London and Friedrichshafen just 10 United Kingdom Pounds each way. 10 Pounds is about $15 in U-S dollars.

The trip to Friedrichshafen departs London Stanstead Airport on June 25th at 12:15 in the afternoon with a 14:50 aerival in Germany. The return

flight leaves Friedrichshafen on Junre 27th at 16:05 and arrives back in London at 16:45. All times are local. That price is hand luggage only and assumes you don't want travel insurance.

So why this deep discount? While the airline has not given a reason but we suspect that its economy related. We can tell you that Ham Radio in Friedrichshafen is one of the worlds largest amateur radio exhibitions and the largest on the European continent. This year it takes place June 26th to the 28th with 17,000 or more visitors expected. With Ryanair flies Boeing 737-800 series aircraft and that means the airline will be transporting about 140 hams to or from this show.

More about the flight discounts is is on-line at www.ryanair.com and the Ham Radio convention web page is
www.hamradio-friedrichshafen.de/html/e (Southgate)

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HAM RADIO PROMOTION: ARRL RELEASES FD VIDEOS

New videos promoting Field Day and amateur radio technology are now available from the ARRL. Both are short Public Service Announcements better known as P-S-A's.

According to the League's Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, the Field Day PSA is meant to be posted on Web sites, added to e-mails and shared via the Internet. . The other which spotlightings amateur radio technology is meant for broadcast and cable TV.

The two spots were an all volunteer effort on the part of ARRL's national Public Relations Committee. This included Newsline's Don Carlson, KQ6FM, who is the voice heard on the Field Day PSA. Its available for download from the ARRL's Field Day Web page. The technology PSA is targeted for commercial TV uses. As such it is a high resolution, 43 megabyte MOV type file thast can also be downloaded from the ARRL. Because this version is meant for professional use, it has a formal 60 second lead-in followed by the 30 second PSA. A very low resolution preview version not meant for distribution.
  is also available. (ARRL)

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THE SOCIAL SCENE: MOVIMIENTO RADIAL DE PUERTO RICO ON APRIL 18

Turning to the ham radio social calendar, the Puerto Rico Radio Movement or Movimiento Radial de Puerto Rico will be sponsoring a special ham radio activity day on April 18th. This, for those who want to learn about Amateur Radio.

During the day there will be demonstrations of various digital modes used by ham radio operators. The afternoon hours will see a special event station WP4NPC take to the air to commemorate World Amateur Radio Day 2009. For more information please contact Fernando Reyes, WP4KS, by e-mail to wp4ks(at) prtc (dot) net

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THE SOCIAL SCENE: BELTON TEXAS ON APRIL 18

The Belton Ham Expo is slated for Saturday, April 18th at the Bell County Expo Center in Belton, Texas. In addition to tailgate sales and vendors, attendees will also be able to upgrade by taking their ham radio tests at the event. Lots more on line about this one at www.beltonhamexpo.org. (Ham Expo)
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THE SOCIAL SCENE: MT.BEACON ARC HAMFEST APRIL 26

And the Mount Beacon Amateur Radio Club is holding its annual Hamfest on Sunday April 26th. The venue is Tymor Park in the town of Unionvale. That's in central Dutchess County, New York. The gate opens at 8 a.m, Eastern Daylight time. More is on-line at www dot wr2abb dot org. (MBARC)

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NAMES IN THE NEWS: KI6SN NAMED NEW PUBLIC SERVICE EDITOR OF CQ

CQ Magazine has announced that Richard Fisher, KI6SN, of Riverside, California, has been named the new Public Service Editor of CQ Amateur Radio magazine. Fisher has been a professional journalist for 35 years, working in various capacities for daily newspapers on both the east and west coasts. He is also a prolific writer on amateur radio matters, writing the "Washington Beat" column for Popular Communications and the "Trail-Friendly Radio" column for WorldRadio Online. He succeeds Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO, whose final column will appear in the May issue of CQ.   Josuweit, who has covered amateur radio emergency and public service communications for CQ VHF, and then for CQ, since 1996, says that he is stepping down due to increased time demands at his full-time job. (CQ)

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BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: SOUTH AFRICA HANSAT LAUNCH AGAIN ON HOLD

The launch of the Southern African amateur radio satellite SumbandilaSat is again on hold. No reasons have been given for the latest launch delay, but rumors have it that one of the main payloads is not yet ready for launch. SumbandilaSat has been waiting over 2 years for its opportunity to ride into space.
(SA AMSAT)

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COMMUNICATIONS NEWS: MAY IS MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

May is Military Appreciation Month and Grace Broadcast Sales is offering a pair of free 60 second Public Service Announcements saluting local men and women serving in the armed forces. Each spot has an open front 10 seconds and open 20 seconds at the close for station or sponsor inserts.

The Grace Broadcasts press release notes that the month of May is filled with military related holidays. May 1st is Loyalty Day and May 8th is V-E Day. The latter commemorates the allied forces World War II Victory in Europe. The 8th is also Military Spouse Appreciation Day. But that's not all. May 16th is Armed Forces Day and May 25th is of coarse Memorial Day

Grace Broadcast Sales says that radio stations are welcome to download these features and air them as often as you like. You can find them marked Support Our Troops free salute one and two at http://www.gracebroadcast.com/prodNMAM.htm

Also, we want to remind you that May 23rd is Amateur Radio Military Appreciation Day. That's when hams and their clubs are encouraged to get on the air and show thanks, support, and appreciation all current and past members of the military. More on this event is also on-line at www.armad.net. (ARNewsline(tm), RW, ARMAD, others)

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EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: OLED BLUE IMPROVED BY 25%

A promising technology called organic light-emitting diodes, or OLED'ds has just seen a major breakthrough. Rearchers at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory have successfully synthesized and tested new materials that improve the power efficiency of blue OLEDs by at least 25 percent. They note that lighting consumes one-fifth of the electricity generated in the United States. They say that solid-state lighting offers tremendous potential to improve the situation once major research challenges are overcome.

OLED's are a multi-layered device that produce light by running an electrical current through a specially engineered host material into which light-producing phosphorescent molecules are embedded. The Department of Energy's solid state lighting program is funding the OLED research. (ScienceDaily)

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EMERGING TECHNOKLOGY: MPEG SURROUND DESIGNATED INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

Proponents say MPEG Surround is now an international standard, ready for deployment. Agere Systems, Coding Technologies, Fraunhofer and Philips said the Moving Pictures Expert Group has finalized the standardization process at the 79th MPEG meeting in Marrakech, Morocco. The document is MPEG-D standard document IS 23003-1. (MPEG Group)

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WORLDBEAT: 500 kHz COMING TO IRELAND

Turning to news from around the globe, wird that a limited number of radio hobbyists in Ireland may soon have access to a low frequency band for continuing experimentation. Irish regulator ComReg has agreed to allow the Irish Radio Transmitters Society to apply for a limited number of permits to operate in the region of 500 kHz under a blanket license to be issued to that national amateur radio society,

Stations to which permits are issued will have to send regular reports to IRTS consisting of their experience of propagation, type of propagation used, noise experienced and methodology used. This, so that the information collected be coordinated and periodic reports submitted to ComReg. (Southgate)

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WORLDBEAT: CELEBRATING THE EUROPEAN GEO PARKS

And from the UK listen out on Saturday, May 23rd and Sunday, May 24th for Martin Foster, G3GOF, and six other radio amateurs. This as they put the special call GB6GEO on the air again this year during the European Geo Parks Communication Event.

The group will take to the ham radio airwaves from the Cavern in Torquay which right in the heart of the English Riviera Global Geopark. But they will not be the only ones involved in the event. If you live in France, Spain, Italy, Austria, Romania, Czech Republic, Norway, Brazil, or China and are interested in participating in this event and, can obtain the special "GEO" suffix., To do so please contact G3VOF as soon as possible via e-mail to martin (at) riviera (dot) fm. More information on the European Geo Parks Communication Event is on-line at http://www.qrz.com/callsign/GB6GEO (OPDX)

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ON THE AIR: RNW ANNOUNCES MORE WORLDWIDE COOPERATION
Radio Netherlands Worldwide wants to expand and intensify its collaborations with foreign media partners over the next few years. The legendary shortwave broadcast station says that cooperation and the exchange of content, in the form of text, audio and video, fits into the station's multimedia policy. Visual content, particularly web video, will assume an increasingly prominent role in the coming months and years.   (Media Network)

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ON THE AIR: VO1MGY COMMEMORATES THE TITANIC

Ham radio will once again commemorate the loss of the fabled luxury liner the Titanic that sank in the North Sea on the morning of April 15, 1912. In remembrance of this disaster the Society of Newfoundland Radio Amateurs will be operating on April 15th 2009, using the historic Titanic call sign suffix of MGY. This, from the Society's ham station located in the former British Admiralty wireless telegraphy station. Listen out for

VO1MGY using CW on all bands where propagation permits. QSL confirmation will be available via the bureau. More is on the web at www.sonra.ca. (SONRA)

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DX

In D-X, an international team of operators known as the Tifariti Gang will be on the air from Western Sahara through the 17of April using the callsign S04R. Their activity will be on all bands from 160 to 10m using CW, SSB and digital modes. QSL via EA5RM.

G3RWL will be active as 8P6DR from Barbados until April 24th He will operate holiday style on 160 to 10 meters using CW and various digital modes. QSL via G3RWL, either direct or bureau.

And OH2YL will be active as portable OH0 from the Aland Islands through the 14th of April. She will operate CW and SSB on the H F bands. QSL requests go directly to OH2YL.

(Above from various DX sources)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: FLORIDA GOES 11 METER CB

And finally this week, Florida has gained FCC approval to go 11 meter C-B. This as the FCC approves a request from the Florida Department of Transportation that asked the agency to permit it to operate an 11 meter Citizens Band remote base emergency alert system along the Florida Enterprise's Turnpike.

The Florida Department of Transportation had requested that it be permitted to operate wire controlled C-B remote bases at Orlando, Kissimmee, Yeehaw Junction, Ft. Pierce and Jupiter. This to provide emergency information to motorists along that highway.

In granting the request the FCC did put several restrictions on the operation of these remote base stations. Among these are that CB stations can transmit only during an emergency event such as hazardous weather conditions, impeded traffic flow, or incidents. They must cease transmissions when the event no longer presents a hazard.

Also, each transmission must identify the CB station operator as being with the Florida Department of Transportation. The operator must also provide a telephone number or other contact information to which complaints of interference to CB communications can be directed.

Oh yes, less we forget. The FCC directed that the CB radio station operator should carefully consider channel selection to reduce the likelihood of harmful interference to on-going communications. And as they say on 11 meters, that's a "big 10-4." (FCC)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937,
Arcadia, California 91066.

A reminder that the nominating period for the 2009 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year Award is now open. Complete details are on our website at www.arnewsline.org Just scroll down to the words "2009 YHOTY Nominations Now Open" and click for more information and an official nominating form.

Also be sure to mark April 18th as this year World Amateur Radio Day. World Amateur Radio Day will focus on the hobby as it empowers people and supports communities by providing emergency communication as well as public service oriented interaction for community and other special events.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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